

Eldridge, Iowa  
June 3, 1953

Dear Miss Smith,

I am vaguely aware of having been leading you or following you about the state of Iowa sometime in the remote past. The calendar says it's only a couple days over two weeks since I saw you in your office in Des Moines; but believe me I've lived years since then! And I thought the "grand tour" was rough! But shall we take things in sequence from the time I left your office?

Got down to the P.L. and found that Mrs. Hughes had arranged luncheon for 1 o'clock and a meeting with the program director of WHO at 3 o'clock - and me having to be in my library to work - 180 miles away - at 7 p.m. She was able to push up the WHO appointment to 2:30. I was only 15 minutes late getting here, but I ate no supper - and I'd better not mention when I left Des Moines! Believe me, it's not the way I like to travel!

In the interval between my arrival at the DMPL and our going out to lunch, I was able to talk with Mrs. Hughes about the Publicity Committee. I made like I didn't remember who the other members were, and she told me and I asked who was supposed to have handled the pub. on the dist. meets.; that there hadn't been any coverage except in the small local papers where the meetings were held, etc. She had asked Margaret to do it, but after a rather lengthy interval had received reply to the effect that she couldn't do it - she was having one of the meetings in her own library, and wouldn't have time to do the pub. I saw both Mrs. Hughes' letter and Margaret's, and I couldn't find a thing that should have sent M. off the deep end. Mrs. H. in addition to asking M. to do the dist. meet. pub. had asked her if she'd handle the table decorations and favors for the pub. luncheon at state meet; and could she come to D.M. for a meeting some time if one became necessary? She said "no" to the pub.; why not dump the luncheon in Geraldine Brinkman's lap; and yes she could come to a meeting; but couldn't imagine why one would be necessary. Mrs. H. thereupon wrote to Gerry and after some interval had a reply to the effect that she, Gerry, would take care of said favors and decorations, I believe. Mrs. H. has a speaker from Des Moines lined up for the luncheon. I believe she told us that at the joint meeting in D.M. in March or April or whenever it was we were there. She thinks very highly of the woman, and feels that there'll be meat in what she says that can be carried away by those who hear it. If she's as good as she's described, I agree. Mrs. H. is very serious about this publicity relations and publicity business, and has worked out a very good idea for a series of radio programs for ILA. She's being very ably abetted by Graham Roberts. He had a script worked out to show to the program director, who approved, with a few minor changes in timing, and is now working on more of them. WHO is working on the problem of clearing time for the programs which will be weekly - and I think good. She's not ready for any releases on them yet, so I don't think I should say more, and I say it with much in confidence to you. Mrs. H. mildly (somewhat understated, I believe!) put it with the kittenish reply she received from M. and after I'd read both letters (I did ask to) I agreed with her that there wasn't much left to be said. At first I tried to bring Mrs. H. around to bringing M. into the act again, and it was then she showed me the letter which made such flat statements.

I've been wondering ever since - trying hard to remember - if anything was said at the pub. meet. when the pub. com. was appointed about division of activities among the



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Thinking aloud like "Dave & Gerry can do the pub. luncheon and Esther & Graham handle the newspapers". Could that have been where M. got the idea that she and G.B. were to do the luncheon? For, of course, Letha would have told her of that thinking. But after all we can't govern the way a committee shall operate after we appoint it - or can we? (Right at the moment I got that word "govern" on paper I thought of the nom. com!!) Anyway, I think we'd better let the publicity committee get along as it will.

That, I think, takes care of Monday - until I stepped into the place and saw the books that were stacked up on the long work table and in boxes all over the floor and no new shelves to take care of them. Such a discouraging thing to be met by at a time like that - and then me desk! Ah! I should have stayed on tour. Then on Tuesday Dorothy - that cute bookmobile librarian of ours - told me she was going to air-line stewardess school as of June 8, and could she please quit the 1st? She'd just found out about it herself, for sure, the day before. I'd known before I left for the dist. meets. that my clerical help would be leaving June 1; but I hadn't replaced her yet. And Mary leaving on vacation - part of it - Thursday of that week I got back. Brother! If you think that isn't being brought back to your job with reality, I don't want your version of what that would be! But believe it or not - and this truly is almost unbelievable - by Sat. noon of that week I'd replaced both people, for the summer only, with trained librarians! One with a degree from Mich. is going to do the clerical work! Just wants to be doing something that'll bring in a little money for the summer (she's a school libn. at Muscatine) while she lives with her sister in Davenport! The ~~and~~ other one is teacher-libn. at ~~Marx~~ Buffalo right her in the county - had the teacher libn. course at Wis! Now I ask you! Have you ever heard of anyone luckier? Of course I still have to find permanent people for both jobs - but at least I can go out to Iowa City next Mon. and to L.A. the following week! As it is now I simply can't leave the confines of these four walls - schools aren't out around here yet - town schools, that is. The shelving came last week, so I've been slightly busy getting the books on them and off the table and floor. To give you an idea of the load the table carried I should say that they were all easies, and enough of them to fill 24 three foot shelves!

See what I mean about having lived a couple years in these past two weeks? But I must get on with it now. Is there anything else I'm supposed to relative to cleaning up the district meeting business? Those meetings were a mighty fine experience, but I'm glad I don't have to start out again on the same thing tomorrow - or even next year!

Jerry Newsome asked if they could show the Scott County Library film at the meeting on audio-visual materials at the workshop Tues. night. I said sure, but I suspect that most of the people there will have seen the thing at some district meeting or other, don't you? Of course, I've taken the time to splice in 2 1/2 reels that I didn't have in it for district meetings - simply didn't have time to get them in - I've had so much of it since I got back!

Sincerely,